

## Humanitarian Aid Given During Site Survey

By 1st Lt. David Swanson  
2-5 Cav. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD -- Identifying a site for a women's center isn't an easy task for 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers in the eastern portion of the Iraqi capital known as Sadr City, especially when 50 families still live in the area.

Troops from 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Brigade Combat Team and the Iraqi engineers worked together at a proposed location for the center while reaching out to families in need.

The families living at the location discussed their needs with Task Force 2-5's commander, Lt. Col. Gary Volesky. While he addressed their concerns, some of the Soldiers handed out soccer balls to local kids.

"It's nice to see the children receive medical attention and to see an increase in morale," said Eagle Pass, Texas native Staff Sgt. Victor Rodriguez with a smile, as the task force's physician, Capt. David "Doc" Mathias began

treating a variety of minor ailments.

Doc's first child of the day greeted him with a handshake and a question about his illness. He continued to perform routine exams of children brought up to him and provided them a recommended dosage with a smile.

While medical treatment continued, Soldier's handed out health care bags and the people showed their appreciation. The children smiled and explained to some of Soldiers that they just received their first toothbrush.

After distributing health care bags, the final task was to distribute 500 bottles of water, Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDR) and Humanitarian Toiletry Bags to the people. Collectively, the heads of households and Soldiers moved the boxes and cases of water to a confined area for distribution later.

"It's especially great to be able to provide food, water and security for the people here," said Pfc. Adam White, from Cedar Springs, Mich., when the



By 1st Lt. David Swanson, 2-5 Cav. Public Affairs

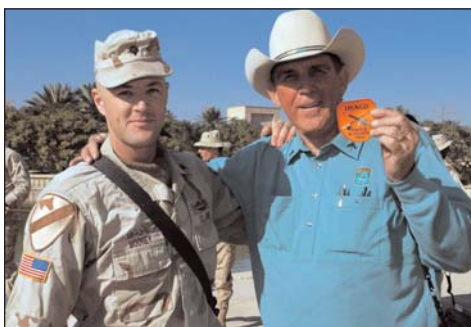
Capt. David "Doc" Mathias talks to his first patient of the day during a humanitarian visit by Task Force 2-5 Cavalry in eastern Baghdad Dec. 5. 2-5 Cav. Soldiers delivered humanitarian aid while Iraqi engineers surveyed a potential site for a new women's center.

detail was complete.

The Iraqi engineers completed their proposed structural survey at the women's center site and in a few short hours the families received food, water, medical attention and soccer

balls.

When the mission was completed, the families and Soldiers smiled and waved to each other and brought closure to a day of reaching out to those in need.



By Staff Sgt. Susan German, 122nd MPAD

Spc. Timothy Mooney, from Bremerton, Wash., of Company A, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, designed a patch, bearing a crossed rifle and fishing pole rather than the infantry's crossed rifles, which he presented to the "Bass Boss" Ray Scott at Camp Prosperity in Baghdad.

## 'Bass Boss' Visits Anglers at Camp Prosperity

By Staff Sgt. Susan German  
122nd MPAD

CAMP PROSPERITY, Baghdad -- For those who love fishing, Baghdad has an impressive number of fishing holes, something you might not expect when you think of the desert and sand of the Middle East.

The only thing missing in those lakes, when you're the founder of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (BASS), are the bass.

The "Bass Boss," Ray Scott, brought his "Iraq Thanksgiving Tour 2004" to Camp Prosperity, a U.S. military camp in Baghdad, where the lakes actually have names, like Fish Lake and Deer Lake. Camp Prosperity is home to the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, from Washington state's 81st Infantry Brigade,

attached to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Scott promotes the world of bass fishing from his home state of Alabama, a sport which is not only his hobby, but has been his livelihood since 1967. He is also the founder of the Whitetail Institute of North America. Scott explained that white-tail deer are the number one most sought after wildlife by hunters, while bass are the most popular fish sought by American fishermen.

One quality that fishermen seem to share is patience. Two of Scott's biggest fans waited patiently all morning for his arrival. Several came with their fishing poles. Most had shared a love for the sport since their childhood.

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# Fishing Fanatics Treated to Visit by Famous Bass Master

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Despite the lack of fancy rods and reels you see in the magazines or on television, Staff Sgt. James Mastrodomenico, a mortar section sergeant with the "Polar Bears" of Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, from Lake George, N.Y., successfully fished with "550 guts" and a safety pin while stationed at Camp Victory North (now known as Camp Liberty). Since coming to work at Camp Prosperity, his gear has evolved somewhat. His fishing pole is an old broomstick. "One of the local national shops had a fishing lure, so I took the hook off the fishing lure, got some line and a bobber, but I've still got the ugly stick. I've still got my broomstick," Mastrodomenico said.

With morning temperatures in the low 40s, the lake water was still cold at noon, as Mastrodomenico and fellow Soldiers did their best to entice the fish with bread and potato chips to come up to the surface. Every once in a while a small fish nibbled at the soggy fare, causing a ripple to move across the lake. They hoped to attract enough fish so that Scott might be talked into fishing when he did arrive. Mastrodomenico had caught a big one earlier that morning, he said.

Scott and his colleagues visited with the Soldiers and gave them hats, copies of Scott's book "Bass Boss." They also autographed cards and photographs, posed for pictures and offered free "Bassmaster" magazine subscriptions to the Soldiers.

Scott didn't have time to fish while he was in Iraq, but offered \$100 cash to any Soldier who could catch a fish with hook and line while he was there. The fish weren't biting, weren't even making an appearance, for whatever reason. Maybe that can only be understood by other fishermen.

Spc. Timothy Mooney, a Bradley gunner with Company A, 1-161 Infantry from Bremerton, Wash., brought his own gift to the meeting with Scott.

"We designed a patch with the words 'The Iraqi Hunting and Fishing Club' before I came to Iraq," Mooney said. "Instead of the infantry crossed rifles, we did a crossed rifle and a fishing rod, we had them designed before we came here, and they were done by the time we got here."

Mooney provided several of his patches to Scott and his group, who were excited to receive them. Scott encouraged Mooney to keep in touch.

Spc. Joe McQuillan, the commander's gunner/driver from Co. A, 1-161 from Belfair, Wash., has been fishing since he was young.

"It's relaxing, calming, you go out there, you get all stressed, hyped up and then you come out here," McQuillan said. "Not too many things can put a smile on your face, but fishing does. [It's] one of the few things."

In addition to the tour, Cayton discussed a part of the welcome home celebration being planned for 1st Cav. Div. Soldiers returning from Iraq. Private donors have donated a \$30,000 bass boat made specially for the Cav. that is painted solid yellow with a black stripe, yellow seats, grey carpet and a horse's head, to be given to a 1st Cav. Div. Soldier returning from Iraq. Donations will be taken and the money will go towards a scholarship program for the children or spouses of Soldiers killed in Iraq.

When it was time for Scott and his entourage to pack up and leave, Mastrodomenico was still in fishing heaven.

"It was so great to meet him," he said. "That was awesome, that made it all, right there. I was sitting there fishing and he



By Staff Sgt. Susan German, 122nd MPAD

Staff Sgt. James Mastrodomenico, a mortar section sergeant with the "Polar Bears" of Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, from Lake George, N.Y., attaches bait to his hook, while Pfc. Josh Lyon watches, as they await the arrival of "Bass Boss" Ray Scott at Camp Prosperity in Baghdad, Nov. 28.

came up, he came right over, sat down with us, and started telling us tricks and he drew us a little picture of how to catch carp. He definitely made the trip into the Green Zone, he definitely made it."

In the end, no one collected the \$100 prize, but some American heroes were able to meet an American icon. For a few hours they shared a passion and common ground. They call it fishing.

## Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Please call me.

iHaSil bee lau samaHt.

### Wednesday

High: 63

Low: 43



### Thursday

High: 57

Low: 37



### Friday

High: 57

Low: 36



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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## News Notes

### Cheese Saboteurs Are On the Loose

MONKTON, Vt. (AP) -- Wanted: Cheese vandals. Someone sneaked into the production house at Orb Weaver Farm and punctured 237 wheels of cheese. The cheese made up nearly a year's production at the farm, and can no longer be sold or eaten because of the contamination. Orb Weaver Farm's Vermont Farmhouse Cheese is sold to local restaurants and stores. It was used in a recipe for macaroni and cheese in the recent cookbook "The Way We Cook: Recipes from the New American Kitchen." A cash reward is being offered for information leading to an arrest.

### Puppy-less Dog Adopts Kittens

EDWARDSBURG, Mich. (AP) -- A Shih Tzu who, her owners say, longed for years to give birth - even to the point of going into false labor several times - finally is getting a chance to nurse some little ones: two stray kittens. Owners Jean and Bill Schirf said the dog, named Geisha Girl, used to take a toy dog, wrap herself around it in her basket and mother it for a week or two. Now she's doing the same thing with the kittens that Jean Schirf found two weeks ago in the woods behind her Cass County home just north of the Indiana border. She and her husband plan to find homes for the kittens after they are weaned from Geisha Girl.



Temple Daily Telegram

Third-Grader Ashley Rios (left) reads her book 'My Best Friend' to second-grader Alyssa Tollerson Thursday. Students at Thornton Elementary School authored and illustrated their own stories and books.

## Hard Work Pays Off for Students

TEMPLE, Texas (*Temple Daily Telegram*) - Outside the door to fifth-grade teacher Tammy Sapp's classroom hangs a big, blue cardboard sign that reads: "WELCOME, AUTHORS."

Inside the room, her students quickly settle down as the next writer, glossy white hardbound book in hand, takes a seat on the stool in front of the chalkboard.

Mariah Sullivan is about to read her first published book, "The Secret, Special Mission," a "mysterious spy adventure" filled with murder, suspense and, ultimately, justice.

The fifth-grader's first audience will be her fellow students in Ms. Sapp's class. And when she's done, she'll erase her name from the list on the blackboard, and the next student-turned-author will take her place.

Friday was the release date for hundreds of books by Thornton Elementary School students, each volume coming in a slick white hardback edition, complete with full-color artwork also done by the students.

The books, which were published free of charge by Kansas-based company Studenttreasures, are part of a school-wide effort to put greater emphasis on literacy, school principal Sue Hildebrand said.

## For The Birds: Grackles Flock to Killeen

KILLEEN, Texas (*Killeen Daily Herald*) -- Killeen's loudest and most obnoxious visitors are back in the area for another season.

Countless black birds, known as grackles, have once again decided to make Killeen their winter home. They can be seen en masse in their favorite spots, including the fences and fields at Nolan Middle School along Florence Road and the wires, trees and buildings near the intersection of Central Texas Expressway and Fort Hood Street.

The winged guests blanket these areas of Killeen from roughly September to March, while many of them are on holiday from their colder homes to the north.

"They tend to form large flocks in the winter and they're not so noticeable in the summer because they're breeding," said John Cornelius, director of endangered species management at Fort Hood.

The birds gather in massive crowds at dawn and especially dusk, creating an eerie scene, like something from Alfred Hitchcock's film, "The Birds."

Cornelius said the birds gather en masse for the safety in numbers effect.

"A thousand sets of eyes are better than one set," he said.

Cornelius said the birds are creatures of habit and will continue to flock in places where they have not been disturbed.



Temple Daily Telegram

With the winter months settling into the Central Texas region, the grackles are beginning to take their place, especially around the businesses along Fort Hood Street.

"Where they get bothered they'll tend to leave," he said.

Brandy Burpee, a Denny's customer, said the birds know they have a good thing going hanging around the restaurants.

"Those birds will never go away because people feed them french fries," Burpee said.

While birds can be dirty and carry disease, Cornelius said, the grackles may not pose a direct health threat yet.

"They're more of a nuisance than a hazard," he said.

## The Zook's Back: In Illinois This Time

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP) -- Former Florida coach Ron Zook will take over at Illinois, sources told The Associated Press Monday.

Zook's hiring as head coach will be announced at a news conference Tuesday, said



two senior university officials speaking on the condition of anonymity.

He will replace Ron Turner, who was fired Nov. 22 after the team went 3-8.

Florida fired Zook Oct. 25 after an embarrassing loss at Mississippi State. Zook coached the Gators for the rest of the season, finishing 7-4, including 3-1 after he was fired, and getting an invitation to the Peach Bowl.

Zook's firing at Florida came after two-plus years with the Gators, satisfying a growing groundswell for his ouster that began the day he replaced Steve Spurrier, who left for the NFL.

Zook was 23-14 with Florida in his first heading coaching job and had some impressive victories, including two wins over Georgia, one over eventual national champion LSU last season and an upset of Florida State on Nov. 20. It was the Gators' first win in Tallahassee since 1986. That may have been Zook's final game with Florida. It was not clear whether he would coach the Gators against Miami in the Peach Bowl.

Turner was fired after Illinois had just one Big Ten victory in two seasons. Just three years ago, Turner led the Illini to their first conference title in a decade.

Illinois won only once in 2003 and lost 14 Big Ten games in a row before defeating Indiana 26-22 on Nov. 6. Two of the Illini's four wins in the past two seasons have been against Division I-AA opponents, Illinois State and Florida A&M.

Florida's Ron Zook, gets a standing ovation from the crowd at the O'Connell Center in Gainesville, Fla. Zook will take over at Illinois.

## Apparent Win Crumbles in the End for Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) -- Julius Jones flashed through the line, juked a defender and zipped into the end zone.

Just like that, the Dallas Cowboys' playoff prospects improved. And just like that, the Seattle Seahawks were again left to explain how they crumbled so helplessly in the closing minutes.

Jones capped a remarkable comeback with a 17-yard touchdown run with 32 seconds left, and Dallas stunned the struggling Seahawks 43-39 on Monday night to pull into the crowded NFC playoff picture.

"I have confidence in myself, but this is really unexpected," Jones said.

With the rookie running for 198 yards and three touchdowns, the Cowboys (5-7) overcame a 10-point deficit with less than two minutes remaining.

"I proved that I can handle the load," Jones said. "And tonight we did it as a team. This is huge. We still have a shot at the playoffs. We needed this game."

Vinny Testaverde threw for 225 yards and three TDs, including the scoring pass to Keyshawn Johnson that pulled Dallas to 39-35 with 1:45 left.

Seattle (6-6) fell into a tie with St. Louis atop the NFC West, but the Rams hold the tiebreaker because they've beaten the Seahawks twice.

It was reminiscent of a fourth-quarter collapse in week 4 against St. Louis, when the Seahawks blew a 27-10 lead and lost 33-27 in overtime. Since then, Seattle has won just three of nine.

"I felt pretty good when we were up by 10 with a couple minutes to go," Seattle coach Mike Holmgren said. "Let's



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Vinny Testaverde gets a pass off in the first quarter under pressure Monday at Qwest Field in Seattle.

just say it: You should win those. We've lost two this year, and it might prevent us from getting into the playoffs."

## In Brief

### From the CIA to the Bookshelves

NEW YORK (AP) -- Former CIA Director George Tenet has agreed to



terms with the Crown Publishing Group to write his memoirs, ending an

extensive bidding war that involved more than a dozen publishers. Tenet, a holdover from the Clinton administration whose service under President Bush was marked by the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the disputed intelligence behind the U.S.-led war against Iraq, will "candidly discuss what it was like working for the two administrations," according to a statement issued Monday.

### Motley to Be a Crue Once Again

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- The original members of 1980s glam metal band Motley Crue, which made hard living and wild sexcapades a centerpiece of their music and their lives, on Monday announced a world reunion tour. After a five-year hiatus, the big-haired, leather-clad Crue members are eager to slip back into the music, if not the lifestyle depicted in hit rockers like "Girls, Girls, Girls" and "Smokin' in the Boys' Room." The band will release a double-CD greatest hits compilation with three new songs entitled "Red, White & Crue" in February. "We're just ready to go out and rock," Neil said at the news conference. "We're still Motley. We still rock."